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Regional Meeting for Asia
Bangkok, 29 March-2 April 1993
Agenda item 8

DRAFT REPORT OF THE REGIONAL MEETING FOR ASIA OF THE WORLD CONFERENCE ON HUMAN RIGHTS

Bangkok, 29 March-2 April 1993

Rapporteur: Mr. L.M. Singhvi

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I. FINAL DECLARATION OF THE REGIONAL MEETING FOR ASIA OF THE WORLD CONFERENCE ON HUMAN RIGHTS

II. ORGANIZATION OF THE REGIONAL MEETING

A. Opening of the Regional Meeting

1. The Regional Meeting for Asia of the World Conference on Human Rights was held at Bangkok from 29 March to 2 April 1993, as mandated by the General Assembly in its resolution 45/155 of 18 December 1990. It held seven meetings during the session.

2. The Assistant Secretary-General for Human Rights opened the Regional Meeting on 29 March 1993.

3. Statements were made by the Executive Secretary of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific and His Excellency Mr. Prasong Soonsiri, the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Thailand.

4. His Excellency Mr. Chuan Leepkai, Prime Minister of Thailand, delivered the inaugural address.

5. The Assistant Secretary-General for Human Rights made a statement on behalf of the Secretary-General of the United Nations.

6. The session was attended by representatives of the following States, United Nations bodies, specialized agencies, intergovernmental organizations, liberation movements, national human rights institutions, other organizations and non-governmental organizations.

States

Bahrain, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Brunei Darussalam, China, Cyprus, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Fiji, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Japan, Kiribati, Kuwait, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Malaysia, Maldives, Mongolia, Myanmar, Nepal, Oman, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea,

Philippines, Republic of Korea, Samoa, Singapore, Solomon Islands, Sri Lanka, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, United Arab Emirates, Viet Nam.

National Liberation Movements

Palestine.

Observers

States represented by observers

Australia, Austria, Belgium, Canada, Czech Republic, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Holy See, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Poland, Russian Federation, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Tunisia, Turkey, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America.

Specialized agencies

International Labour Organisation, United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, World Health Organization.

Intergovernmental organizations

Association of South-East Asian Nations, Commission of the European Communities, Commonwealth Secretariat, International Organization for Migration.

United Nations organs

United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC), Economic and Social Commission

for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR).

National human rights institutions

Parliamentary Commissioner for Administration of Sri Lanka, Philippine Commission on Human Rights.

United Nations human rights and related bodies

Committee against Torture, Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, Committee on the Rights of the Child, Special Rapporteur on the Sale of Children.

Other organizations and institutions

International Committee of the Red Cross, Lawyers for Human Rights and Legal Aid (LHRLA).

Non-governmental organizations

Non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council

Category I

International Confederation of Free Trade Unions (ICFTU), International Council of Voluntary Agencies (ICVA), International Council on Social Welfare, International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, International Movement ATD Fourth World, International Planned Parenthood Federation (IPPF), International Youth and Student Movement for the United Nations (ISMUN), World Federation of United Nations Associations, World Muslim Congress.

Category II

Afro-Asian People's Solidarity Organization (AAPSO), Amnesty International, All Pakistan Women's Association, Bahá'í International Community, Caritas Internationalis, Christian Children's Fund Incorporated, Coalition Against the Trafficking in Women, Commission of the Churches on International Affairs of the World Council of Churches, France Libertés: Fondation Danielle Mitterrand, Four Directions Council, Friends World Committee for Consultation (Quakers), Human Rights Internet (HRI), International Association of Democratic Lawyers, International Association of Educators for World Peace (IAEWP), International Catholic Child Bureau, International Commission of Jurists, International Co-operation for Development and Solidarity, International Federation of Journalists (IFJ), International Federation of Human Rights, International Federation of University Women (IFUW), International Fellowship of Reconciliation, International League for Human Rights, International Service for Human Rights, International Union of Students, Law Association for Asia and the Pacific (LAWASIA), National Aboriginal and Islander Legal Service Secretariat, OXFAM, Pan-Pacific and South-East Asia Women's Association, Pax Romana, Pugwash Conferences on Science and World Affairs, Regional Council on Human Rights in Asia, Women's International League for Peace and Freedom (WILPF), World Conference on Religion and Peace, World Federation for Mental Health, World Vision International.

Roster

Aliran Kesedaran Negara - National Consciousness Movement, Asian Cultural Forum on Development, Brahma Kumaris World Spiritual University, Friedrich Ebert Foundation, Minority Rights Group.

Other non-governmental organizations

AGHS Legal Aid Cell, Al-Haq, All Japan Federation of Buraku Liberation Movement, Alliance of Advocates for the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (TABAJ), Asia Indigenous Peoples Pact, Asia Pacific Forum on Women, Law and Development, Asia Pacific Workers Solidarity Links, Asian Center for the Progress of Peoples, Asian Committee for Peace-Solidarity and Human Rights, Asian-Pacific Peoples' Forum on Peace and Development, Asian Students Association, Asian Women Human Rights Council (AWHRC), ASIANET - Child Rights Asianet, Association Demanding Investigation on Phonetapping by the Police, Association for Democratic Rights (AFDR), Association for Promotion of the Status of Women, Association of Diet Members for Cooperation with UN Human Rights Activities, Association of Relatives of Political Prisoners, Bangladesh Human Rights Commission, Bangladesh Munobadhikar Samannay Parishad, Buddhists' Committee for Human Rights, Buraku Liberation Research Institute, Centre for Socio-Legal Research and Documentation Service, Centre for the Study of Human Rights, Centre for Tribal Conscientization, Centre for Women's Studies and Development, Centre of Concern for Child Labour, China Society for Human Rights Studies, Civil Rights Movement of Sri Lanka, Coalition for Peace and Development, Committee for the Restoration of Human Rights Throughout Cyprus, Cordillera Resource Center for Indigenous People's Rights, Dalit Liberation Education Trust, DCI-CORE Group (Sri Lanka), Ecumenical Movement for Justice and Peace, Fact-Finding Team on the Truth About Forced Korean Laborers, Families of Victims of Involuntary Disappearance, Forum for Protection of Human Rights, Foundation for Women, Friends of Women Foundation, GABRIELA, Gonoshahajjo Sangstha, Human Rights Commission of Pakistan, Humanist and Ethical Association of Bangladesh, Indochinese Refugee Information Centre, INFORM - Information Monitor, Institute for Human Rights, Environment and Development-International, Institute of International Human Rights, International Association for the Protection of Human

Rights in Cyprus, International Human Rights League of Korea, Japan Civil Liberties Union, Japan Federation of Bar Associations, Jesuit Refugee Service, KAMP (Federation of the Indigenous Peoples of the Philippines), Karnataka Welfare Society, Korea NGOs' Network for the UN World Conference on Human Rights, Korean Bar Association, Korean Council for the Women Drafted for Sexual Slavery by Japan, Korean Rights Group, Kuwaiti Association to Defend War Victims, Land and Water Establishment for Studies and Legal Services, Law and Society Trust, Law Association for Asia and the Pacific-Human Rights Committee, Lawyers for Human Rights and Development, Malik Ghulam Jilani Foundation for Human Rights (Jilani Foundation), Medical Action Group, Mindanao Partnership for Human Development, Organization for Defending Victims of Violence, Palestine Human Rights Information Center, Peoples Aid and Relief Association of Japan, Philippine Alliance of Human Rights Advocates, Rights and Humanity, Salvation Front for Democratic Reunification of Korea, Stop Torture in Korea, Suara Rakyat Malaysia, Task Force Detainees of the Philippines, Thailand (MPCDE)/Mountain People's Culture and Development Project, Third World Movement Against the Exploitation of Women, Third World Network, Union for Civil Liberty, Women Living Under Muslim Laws, Women's Education for Advancement and Empowerment.

7. A list of the documents for the Regional Meeting for Asia is contained in annex II to the present report.

B. Election of officers

8. At its 1st meeting on 29 March 1993, the Regional Meeting elected the following officers:

Chairman: Mr. Pracha Guna-Kasem (Thailand)

Vice-Chairmen: Mr. Ahmad Al-Haddad (Bahrain)
Mr. Lyonpo Dawa Tsering (Bhutan)
Mr. Yongjian Jin (China)
Mr. Mohammad Javad Zarif (Islamic Republic of Iran)
Mr. Yutaka Yoshizawa (Japan)
Mr. Khalid Mahmood (Pakistan)

Vice-Chairman/Rapporteur: Mr. L.M. Singhvi (India)

C. Adoption of the agenda and the rules of procedure

9. At its 2nd meeting, on 29 March 1993, the Regional Meeting had before it the provisional agenda for the Regional Meeting for Asia (A/CONF.157/ASRM/1*).

10. At the same meeting, the Chairman introduced the amendments to the agenda proposed by the General Committee, as follows:

(a) At the end of item 4 of the provisional agenda, add the words "including the establishment of a credentials committee";

(b) In item 6, after the word "region", insert the words "including public information activities, at the regional and national levels";

(c) Replace item 7, which read: "Consideration of public information activities, at the regional and national levels, relating to the World Conference and its preparatory process", with a new agenda item.

11. The provisional agenda, as amended, was adopted without a vote. For the text of the agenda as adopted, see annex I.

12. At the same meeting, the Regional Meeting adopted the rules of procedure of the functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council, bearing in mind decision PC.3/2, adopted by the Preparatory Committee at its third session, concerning the participation of representatives of non-governmental organizations at regional meetings (see A/CONF.157/PC/54, annex II).

D. Organization of work, including the establishment of a credentials committee

13. At its 2nd meeting, on 29 March 1993, the Regional Meeting, on the recommendation of the General Committee, approved its programme of work.

14. At the same meeting, the Regional Meeting decided, on the recommendation of the General Committee, to set up a drafting committee; it appointed Mr. Mohammad Javad Zarif (Islamic Republic of Iran) Chairman of the Drafting Committee. The Committee held 5 meetings, from 30 March to 1 April 1993.

15. At its 6th meeting, on 31 March 1993, the Chairman of the Regional Meeting announced the composition of the Credentials Committee. The Committee was composed as follows: Mr. N. Karoua (Kiribati), Mr. Doo Byong Shin (Republic of Korea), Mr. B.A.B. Goonetillike (Sri Lanka), Mr. Khalil Abou Hadid (Syrian Arab Republic), Mr. Ngoc Bao Lam (Viet Nam).

16. On 1 April 1993, the Credentials Committee met and elected Mr. N. Karoua as Chairman of the Committee. It examined the credentials of representatives of 34 States which were represented at the Regional Meeting.

III. STATEMENTS

17. Statements[1] on agenda items 5 and 6 were made by the representatives of the following States: Bahrain (4th), Bangladesh (6th), China (3rd), Cyprus (5th), Democratic People's Republic of Korea (5th), Fiji (3rd), India (3rd), Indonesia (2nd), Iran (Islamic Republic of) (5th), Japan (3rd), Kuwait (6th), Lao People's Democratic Republic (6th), Malaysia (3rd), Mongolia (6th), Myanmar (5th), Nepal (4th), Pakistan (5th), Philippines (2nd), Republic of Korea (4th), Singapore (4th), Sri anka (3rd), Syrian Arab Republic (5th), Thailand (3rd, 4th and 5th), Viet Nam (3rd).

18. A statement was also made by the representative of Palestine (2nd).

19. Statements were also made by the observers for: Australia (5th), Austria (6th), Canada (3rd), Denmark (on behalf of the European Community) (4th), Holy See (5th), New Zealand (6th), Norway (6th), Tunisia (3rd), United States of America (5th).

20. A statement was made by the observer for the Philippine Commission on Human Rights (2nd).

21. A statement was also made by the observer for the International Labour Organisation (3rd).

22. Statements were also made by the observers for: United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (3rd), United Nations Children's Fund (5th), United Nations Development Fund for Women (5th).

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[1] The number in parentheses following the name of States or organizations indicates the meeting at which the statement was made.

23. Statements were made by the observers for: Committee against Torture (6th), Committee on the Rights of the Child (6th).

24. A statement was made by the Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights on the Sale of Children (6th).

25. Statements were made by the observers for the following non-governmental organizations: AGHS Legal Aid Cell (5th), Al-Haq (6th), Aliran Kesedaran Negara - National Consciousness Movement (6th), Amnesty International (2nd), ASIANET - Child Rights Asianet (4th), Asian Committee for Peace, Solidarity and Human Rights (6th), Asian Cultural Forum for Development (4th), Asia-Pacific Forum for Women, Law and Development (4th), Asia-Pacific Workers Solidarity Links (2nd), Asian Pacific People's Forum on Peace and Development (6th), Asian Women Human Rights Council (4th), Association of Diet Members for Cooperation with United Nations Human Rights Activities (4th), Association of Relatives of Political Prisoners (3rd), Brahma Kumaris World Spiritual University (5th), Centre for the Study of Human Rights (4th), Centre of Concern for Child Labour (5th), China Society for Human Rights Studies (3rd), Civil Rights Movement of Sri Lanka (4th), Coalition against the Trafficking in Women (6th), Commission of the Churches on International Affairs of the World Council of Churches (2nd), Dalit Liberation Education Trust (5th), Ecumenical Movement for Justice and Peace (6th), Families of Victims of the Involuntary Disappearance (6th), Gabriela (4th), Human Rights Commission of Pakistan (4th), Humanist and Ethical Association of Bangladesh (4th), Human Rights Internet (2nd), Inform - Information Monitor (4th), International Association of Democratic Lawyers (2nd), International Confederation of Free Trade Unions (2nd), International Commission of Jurists (2nd), International Federation of Human Rights (4th), International Fellowship of Reconciliation (2nd), International League for Human Rights (4th), International Movement ATD Fourth World (5th), International Planned Parenthood Federation (IPPF)

(3rd), Institute for Human Rights, Environment and Development - International (2nd), Japan Civil Liberties Union (6th), Korea NGOs Network for the UN World Conference on Human Rights (4th), Kuwaiti Association to Defend War Victims (5th), Land and Water East for Studies and Legal Services (6th), Law and Society Trust (2nd), Law Assocation for Asia and the Pacific (2nd), Malik Ghulam Jilani Foundation for Human Rights (5th), Medical Action Group (6th), National Aboriginal and Islanders Legal Service Secretariat (4th), OXFAM (6th), Palestine Human Rights Information Centre (6th), Philippines Alliance of Human Rights Advocates (2nd), Stop Torture in Korea (5th), Suara Rakyat Malaysia (6th), Task Force Detainees of the Philippines (3rd), Third World Network (6th), Women Living under Muslim Laws (6th), Women's International League for Peace and Freedom (4th), World Conference on Religion and Peace (5th).

26. Joint statements were made by observers for the following non-governmental organizations: Centre for the Study of Human Rights and Civil Rights Movement of Sri Lanka (4th), Coalition for Peace and Development (on behalf of all non-governmental organizations that participated in the Asia-Pacific NGO Forum held at Bangkok from 26 to 28 March 1993) (2nd).

IV. CONSIDERATION OF ISSUES RELATING TO THE PROTECTION AND PROMOTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS, INCLUDING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF INTERNATIONAL AND REGIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS INSTRUMENTS

27. At its 2nd to 6th meetings, from 29 to 31 March 1993, the Regional Meeting considered item 5 of the agenda.

28. For the members, observers and non-governmental organizations that made statements under item 5, see section III, paragraphs 17 to 26.

29. The Regional Meeting had before it the following documents:

Report of the Secretary-General on "Regional human rights instruments and institutions" (A/CONF.157/ASRM/2)

Report of the Secretary-General on "National institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights" (E/CN.4/1993/33)

Report of the Secretary-General on "Advisory services in the field of human rights, including the Voluntary Fund for Technical Cooperation in the field of Human Rights" (E/CN.4/1993/61)

Contribution from the United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC) (A/CONF.157/61/Add.11)

Report of the Secretary-General on "New international humanitarian order" (A/47/352)

Note by the Secretary-General on "Comprehensive policy review of operational activities of the United Nations system" (A/47/419/Add.1)

Note verbale dated 4 February 1993 from the Permanent Mission of the League of Arab States to the United Nations Office at Geneva addressed to the Under-Secretary-General for Human Rights containing the report and recommendations of the Arab Standing Committee on Human Rights at its eleventh session held at Cairo from 10 to 14 January 1993 (E/CN.4/1993/90)

V. CONSIDERATION OF ISSUES RELATING TO THE OBJECTIVES OF THE WORLD CONFERENCE OF PARTICULAR IMPORTANCE TO THE REGION, INCLUDING PUBLIC INFORMATION ACTIVITIES, AT THE REGIONAL AND NATIONAL LEVELS: A REGIONAL PERSPECTIVE

30. The Regional Meeting considered item 6 of the agenda at its 2nd to 6th meetings, held from 29 to 31 March 1993.

31. For the members, observers and non-governmental organizations that made statements under item 6, see section III, paragraphs 17 to 26.

32. The Regional Meeting had before it the following documents:

Note by the Secretariat - Second Asia-Pacific Workshop on Human Rights Issues, Jakarta, 26-28 January 1993 (A/CONF.157/ASRM/3)

Note by the Secretariat - Statement submitted by non-governmental organizations concerned with human rights in the Asian region (A/CONF.157/PC/63/Add.5)

Report of the Regional Meeting for Africa of the World Conference on Human Rights (A/CONF.157/AFRM/14-A/CONF.157/PC/57)

Report of the Regional Meeting for Latin America and the Caribbean of the World Conference on Human Rights (A/CONF.157/LACRM/15-A/CONF.157/PC/58)

Report of the Secretary-General on "Public information programme and information coverage of the World Conference on Human Rights and its preparatory process" (A/CONF.157/PC.44)

VI. ADOPTION OF THE REPORT OF THE CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE

33. At its 7th meeting, on 2 April 1993, the Regional Meeting took note of the report of the Credentials Committee (A/CONF.157/ASRM/6).

VII. ADOPTION OF THE REPORT OF THE REGIONAL MEETING

34. The Regional Meeting considered item 8 of the agenda at its 7th meeting, held on 2 April 1993.

35. The Regional Meeting had before it the report of the Drafting Committee (A/CONF.157/ASRM/7) containing a draft final declaration for adoption.

36. The draft final declaration was adopted without a vote.

37. For the text of the final declaration, see section I.

38. At the same meeting, the Regional Meeting adopted the draft report of the Regional Meeting for Asia of the World Conference on Human Rights, contained in document A/CONF.157/ASRM/L.1, without a vote.